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and present conditions of the countries the perambulating preacher has infested would be a waste of time. They are too numerous and the character of the work is beneath mediocrity. The conceit of the author in pretending to present in this volume anything but a display of ignorance and incompetency goes beyond the patience of those who know the subjects of which he professes to treat. His book is one more contribution to an unnecessary literature already far too extensive in English.

A. F. B.

**Dalmatia. By Maude M. Holbach.** New York, John Lane, 1908.

Eureka! Dalmatia is rediscovered! Naturally, such a feat could only have been performed by Britishers, the woman illustrating the man's photographs by a text in English and the man illuminating her writings by very handsome pictures. It must be said that the book is a most attractive one, especially for British tourists. Its design is evidently to direct the travelling Englishman to Dalmatia and to infuse in him the regret that those Austrian shores, once marked by the preponderance of the British flag, were turned over to Austria for safe-keeping. There is, through the whole book, a suppressed sigh at the fact of Dalmatia not having become British. In the chapter on Lissa two pages and a half are consecrated to a wail over the time when the English infested the picturesque shores of the Adriatic; for the naval engagement of Lissa in 1866, one of the most remarkable sea-fights on record, there is barely a line.

These are failings which may be pardoned. British literature on foreign countries is, like history written by British authors, an attempt to describe what is seen through a mist. But it must be said that, in spite of its insular failings, this book deserves, from a literary standpoint, unusual commendation. It is very well written and exceedingly well planned. The author presents, perhaps, too fair a picture of the Dalmatians. But it is pleasant to read, once in a while, a fair and evidently honest and disinterested judgment by tourists. The dark sides of Dalmatian character are not alluded to, probably because the writers did not come into close contact with the people.

The description of Dalmatia is superior to that of Baedeker. The latter gives a matter-of-fact directory. The authors of this book impart more information of a certain kind (chiefly historical) and make it more valuable to the reader through the personal element which pervades the volume. It may be said that the book has the merit of being, without pretension, geography very much alive; the author does not claim geographical elaboration, there are no statistics, no dreary accumulations of so-called data and assumed facts, the map adjoining the volume is but an incidental, though a valuable, guide, and the geographical importance of the work consists in the lifelike descriptions, in the historical indications that run like an unbroken thread through the whole fabric, and the persistent blending of nature, as a basis, with the highly interesting historical past of the country. The author introduces us into a wing, so to say, of art which is not generally known. Her judgment on such subjects is not always correct, but it is always honest and we are seldom misled by her intentionally.

Taking advantage of the proximity of Dalmatia to the territory of Montenegro and of the splendid road made by Austria towards Cetinje, the writers also visited that little and less known spot of southern Europe. The account of the people and country is only the result of a flying visit, but it is always a glimpse at something hardly ever seen or mentioned, and as such an agreeable corollary to the rest of the volume.

A. F. B.